



**BELL**

WINE CELLARS

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## Sonnette 2006 Napa Valley

*Sonnette – French noun, feminine. Transl. – 1. small bell*

### Background

Bell Wine Cellars is committed to hand-crafting limited edition bottlings of extraordinary wines that best reflect the terroir of their vineyards and the care and passion of their growers. In *Sonnette*, our “baby bell”, we have created our second proprietary wine, a Bordeaux (Meritage) blend, capturing the unique fruit expressions of these varietals grown in Napa Valley. The fifth wine in our Cabernet Collection, *Sonnette* is a selection of expressive barrel lots, and offers us the broadest artistic canvas upon which to express ourselves as winemakers.

### The Wine

*Sonnette* is a blend of Bordeaux varietals, selected from some of Napa Valley’s best vineyards; and chosen for their concentration, depth of flavor, varietal expression and supple tannin structure. The 2006 vintage is a blend of Cabernet sauvignon (65%), Merlot (13%) from the Spanos-Berberian vineyard surrounding the winery; Cabernet franc from Atlas Peak (7%), Malbec from Yountville (7%) and Petit verdot from the Massa Ranch in Yountville (7%).

### Vintage Notes

The 2006 growing season began with heavy rains and floods around the Napa Valley. Rainfall continued well into spring with later than usual bloom and set in June. A record heat wave in mid-July failed to damage vines as they were slightly behind in the cycle. Normal, mild weather returned in August and continued, allowing for paced ripening. Cold weather with rain in October slowed sugar accumulation while allowing extended hang time, which enhances maturity and optimal development of flavors. Overall, the season was an outstanding year and has produced wines with beautiful structure, great color, and high natural acidity.

### Technical Analysis

Varietal:	Cabernet Sauvignon (65%) Merlot (14%) Cabernet franc (7%) Malbec (7%) Petit verdot (7%)
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Alcohol	13.7%
Aging	20 months in 65% French, 35% American, 29% new
Bottle Date	July 2008
Production	701 6-pack cases

### Tasting Notes

Our *Sonnette* is deep ruby in color, and has rich, ripe cherry, cassis and blackberry fruit aromas. Firm tannins and sweet oak combine with a gentle hint of pepper and spice to yield a full-bodied wine. Rich and luscious on the palate, the wine has excellent balance and a rich, long, lingering finish that will continue to develop with additional bottle age.

